



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: May 12, 2005

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

Chair Harvey Klein (GSL) called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. Terri McIntyre (Merck) made a motion to accept the April meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the renewal applications for FY2006 are still being addressed. There is a new part III list posted on the OQA website as of March 2005.

PT program: Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that letters were sent out to laboratories informing them that the June WP study was cancelled. The information should be posted on the website soon. It is likely that the July DW study will also be cancelled.

Ms Werner stated that the DAG has denied the request for a hearing on the PT contract because the challenger does not have grounds. This has been based on the data sent for evaluation.

Harvey Klein (GSL) mentioned that PT vendors are still advertising QC samples side by side with PT samples even though NELAC requires them to stop this practice. Mr. Klein explained that NELAC requires PT samples to be run as a routine sample with no additional QC. Rachel Werner stated that some labs have been cited for running additional QC with their PT samples.

NELAC / INELA Update: Harvey Klein (GSL) noted that the new FoPT fields of testing will be initiated on June 1, 2005. NELAC labs have 18 months in which to pass two out of three PT samples. Rachel Werner stated that the new analytes will be listed on communications concerning the PT studies.

Greg Tomkovich (Accutest) speaking for Dave Speis said that INELA is preparing a new model for a standard. One issue to be addressed was to make INELA more friendly to non-NELAC laboratories.

NJQL's: Harvey Klein (GSL) informed the committee that the NJQL meeting on May 9th has been cancelled indefinitely. The meeting would have covered NJQL and EDI submissions. Marty Hackman (NJDEP-OQA) informed the committee that the performance issues with the database are being addressed.

Greg Tomkovich (Accutest) said that Dave Speis has concerns over the NJQL's input screening and questions concerning the requirements for LCS data and CAS#. Dave Speis has asked for a position paper from the ELAC committee to be presented to the OQA. Tom Greci (ECM) suggested that this paper be submitted by the NJQL subcommittee.

Bioassay: No report

Sludge (Biosolids): No report

Communications and OQA Website: No report

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: No report

PWTA: Harvey Klein (GSL) stated that Karen Fell is working on the annual summation of PWTA results.

New Business

Certified Laboratory Fee Structure: A preliminary discussion with Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) was planned after the May ELAC meeting on how to set up the New Jersey certified laboratory fee structure. The discussion should focus on different ways to handle fees and review how other programs / states handle their fee structure.

Phil Worby (QC Labs) stated that fees can be assessed by program, by category and by analyte or method. He stated that Pennsylvania utilizes a hybrid approach. Sharon Ercoliani (GSL) stated that the DEP needs to double current fee income to cover their budget of 1.9 million. Rachel Werner (NJDEP-OQA) stated that it has been ten years since the fee structure has changed. She stated that New Jersey is the least expensive NELAC certification state and that some new NELAC labs that are not currently in a NELAC state are coming to New Jersey to become certified.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting adjourned at 10:12 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on June 9, 2005 – 4th Floor Conference Room.

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